

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13, 20, and 21-32 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 2 and 21 are canceled.

The Specification was objected to because of the language and format of the Abstract and the descriptiveness of the Title. In response, a new Abstract which is clear and concise has been submitted. Also, a new Title has been presented which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicants believe this objection has been overcome.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-10 and 21-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 2 and 21, respectively. Claims 2 and 21 have been canceled. Claims 3-13 and 21-32 inherit the limitations of amended

claims 1 and 10 from which they depend, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants believe all of the remaining claims (1, 3-13, 20, and 21-32) are now in condition for allowance.

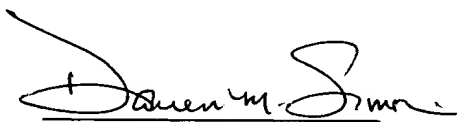
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800